

# **PRE-LAUNCH PROCEDURES**

**GAVIOTA STATE PARK  
BOAT HOIST OPERATOR'S TRAINING HANDBOOK**

**TRAFFIC FLOW & PARKING**



Once you have registered and paid your fees, proceed to the vessel staging area located in the park's day use parking lot.

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Drive into the park and follow the signs to the day use parking lot.

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Please remember that the maximum vehicle speed limit in the park is 15 mph.

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Follow the signs to the day use parking lot.



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Park in one of the vehicle/trailer spaces provided.

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**VESSEL PREPARATION**



All loading of gear and vessel preparation must be done while parked in these spaces. Use this time to ensure that your vessel is launch-ready prior to moving into the Launch Line.

**DO NOT ENTER THE LAUNCH LINE TO ACCESS THE PIER UNTIL YOU  
ARE FULLY PREPARED TO LAUNCH YOUR VESSEL.**

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**REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT**



All vessels launched at Gaviota State Park must have all safety equipment required by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). This includes, but is not limited to, the following items:

- Personal Flotation Device (PFD) for each vessel occupant (USCG Approved).
- Audible distress signal (USCG Approved).
- Visual distress signal (USCG Approved).
- Fire extinguisher (USCG Approved).
- Throwable Flotation Device (vessels over 16 feet)
- Anchor with sufficient rope.

Check expiration dates on safety flares and extinguishers.



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**VESSEL REGISTRATION**



All vessels launched at Gaviota State Park must display current registration and properly affixed CF numbers.

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Beach-launched vessels must also carry the required safety equipment and display current registration and CF numbers.

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**CERTIFIED LIFTING SLING & HARDWARE**



Attach your ANSI-stamped and rated sling to your vessel. Inspect your vessel's lifting points for wear or damage. Make sure that the gear onboard your vessel does not impede your sling in any way and that each sling leg has no knots, twists or kinks.

All hardware connected to any part of the sling or hoist hook must be STAMPED and rated for the proper Working Load Limit (WLL) and be designed for vertical lifting. When purchasing hardware, check to make sure it is not labeled "Not designed for lifting."

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Example of stamped and rated shackle with screw pin approved for use at Gaviota State Park.

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Example of stamped and rated nylon lifting sling leg.



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Correct sling/shackle orientation. Check your sling and all lifting components prior to each launch and retrieval of your vessel.

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**RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT**



While not required in order to use park facilities, California State Parks strongly recommends that every vessel have an onboard VHF marine radio for emergency communication. Use Channel 16 to contact Coast Guard if you have an emergency while underway. If you do not have a radio, a cell phone can be used.

Recommended equipment:

- VHF marine radio or cell phone
- Paddle, oars or small back-up motor
- Bailing device

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**VESSEL CHECKLIST**



Use your time in the day use parking area to fully prepare your vessel.

Before moving to the Launch Line, check the following items:

- ☐ Transom plug is installed.
- ☐ Control line is attached correctly and of sufficient length (50 ft minimum)
- ☐ Fuel level is sufficient for trip.
- ☐ Bow and stern trailer tie-downs are removed.
- ☐ Required safety equipment is on board and working properly.
- ☐ Key is in ignition.
- ☐ Trip Itinerary Form has been completed and submitted to State Parks staff.

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**LAUNCH LINE & PIER APPROACH**



When your vessel is ready for launching, drive your vehicle and boat around to the Launch Line and wait in this location until one of the two parking spaces at the pier is available. While in the Launch Line, park so as not to impede traffic flow and wait your turn.

There are only two parking spaces for hoist users at the pier, and only two vehicles are allowed at the base of the pier at any one time.

Once you enter the Launch Line, wait for your turn. This is a first-come, first-served operation.



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When it is your turn to pull up to the base of the pier, proceed up the road and park in one of the two spaces provided. Remember that other boaters are waiting in the Launch Line for their turn, so make every effort to be expedient, but do so safely. All you should have to do at this time is park, remove your trailer from your vehicle and prepare to walk it out to the hoist area.



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The two parking spaces at the foot of the pier are for vehicles with boats **ONLY**.

Do not block or use the Handicapped parking area east of the boat launch parking spaces.

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**TRANSFERRING VESSEL TO HOIST**



Hook your dolly to your boat trailer and prepare to head out onto the pier to the hoist launch area. Before starting out, check to make sure that space is available. A maximum of two vessels are permitted on the pier at the same time.

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Before you leave your vehicle, be sure it is locked and the windows are rolled up.

**IMPORTANT!**

**Park your vehicle where it does not block access to the pier by emergency vehicles or other boat trailers.**

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As you push or pull your boat out onto the pier, please stay in the middle of the decking and be aware of your surroundings. There are many visitors who use the pier, and on a busy day, space can get tight.



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As you proceed to the Launch Zone, watch for children, pets and fishing poles or other equipment. Be aware of your trailer and its path. Remember, safety is the #1 concern for all visitors.

At the hoist, clear the Launch Zone of all other visitors. The Launch Zone is indicated by a solid 4-inch yellow line and signs,.